

BROOKS

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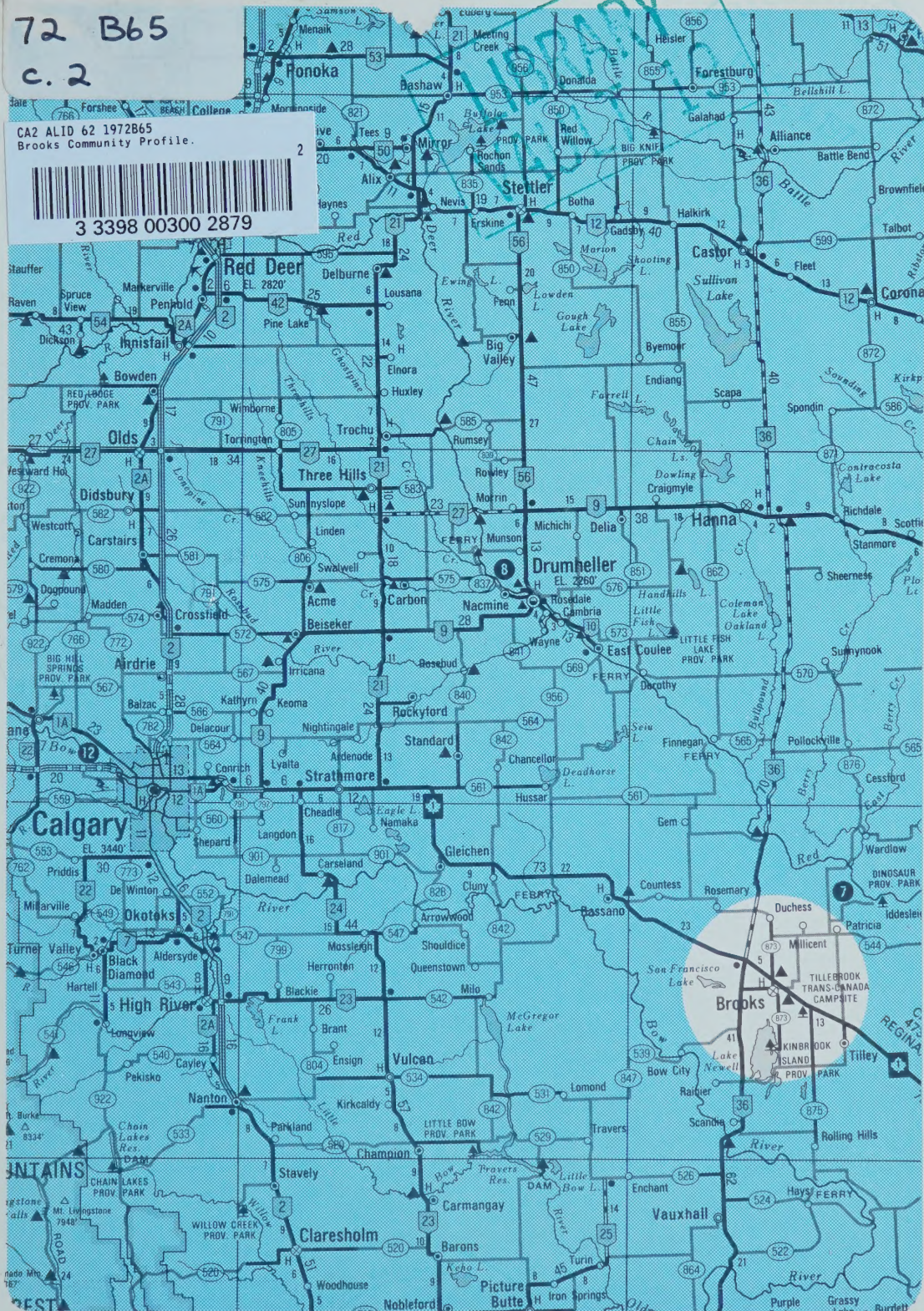
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Brooks Community Profile.



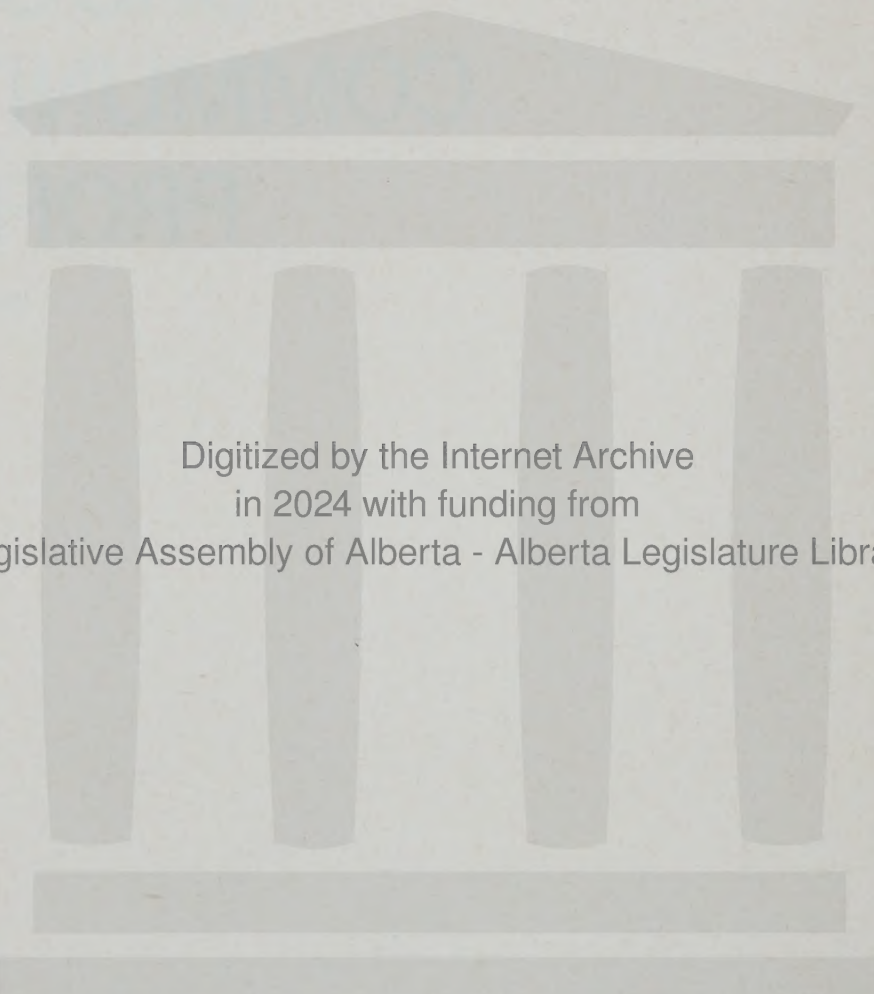
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Alberta
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

BROOKS COMMUNITY PROFILE

August 1972



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AN INTRODUCTION

Location

Brooks, situated on the Trans-Canada Highway No. 1 and on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is located on sections 29, 31 and 32 in township 18, range 14, and sections 4 and 5 in township 19, range 14, in Census Division No. 2. This location is 67 miles northeast of Medicine Hat and 115 miles southeast of Calgary.

The town's altitude is 2,488 feet above sea level. Latitude 50/35; longitude 111/53.

Population

Town population ('71) — 4,000.

Trading area population — 18,000 (45 miles north, west and south, and 60 miles to the east).

Weather

Mean summer temperature — 64.5 deg. F.

Mean winter temperature — 13.7 deg. F.

Mean annual temperature — 40.1 deg. F.

Average annual rainfall — 9.45 inches.

Average annual snowfall — 33.40 inches.

Average annual precip. — 12.79 inches.

Geology

The bedrock is a dark grey marine shale in the Bearpaw formation of the Upper Cretaceous Age. These shales contain some bentonitic material and comparatively large quantities of salts.

Soil

Brooks is in the brown soil zone.

Vegetation: Short grass prairie.

Soil Profile: In the normal profile the surface horizon is about five inches deep and brown in color. The sub-soil is commonly brownish in color and the lime layer is found at depths averaging 16 inches below the surface. The parent material is found at depths of 14 to 24 inches. In other soil zones this horizon occurs at greater depths.

Fertility: Moisture is the principal limiting factor in crop production. Soils in this zone are relatively low in nitrogen and phosphorus and under irrigation or in a wet year, respond to fertilizers supplying these elements.

Land Use: Only the most favorable soil types can be considered arable. Most of the area is desirable for ranching. Where farmed, alfalfa is the principal crop grown. Cropping practices must provide for moisture conserva-

tion and control of soil drifting. The long frost-free period makes this zone a desirable area for the development of irrigation and the growing of row crops — vegetables, potatoes, tobacco, peas, etc.

History

Brooks was named to honor Noell Edgell Brooks, Divisional Engineer for the Canadian Pacific Railway from 1903 to 1913.

The land surrounding Brooks was the home and hunting ground of the Blood and Blackfoot Indians before Treaty No. 7 was signed in 1877. The signing of this treaty resulted in a large grazing land area being made available for ranching. With the arrival of the North West Mounted Police, law and order was established. The Dominion Government in the year 1881 passed regulations which permitted the leasing of up to 100,000 acres to ranchers for an annual rental of one cent per acre.

The land around Brooks was surveyed in 1882. In 1883 the Canadian Pacific Railway was constructed from Medicine Hat to Brooks and reached Calgary August 11th. The town-site survey was registered in 1907 and the population was nine.

Land irrigation started in 1914, when the Canadian Pacific Railway constructed a dam across the Bow River at Bassano to irrigate a tract of land adjacent to the railway. The project cost the railway \$47 per irrigable acre and the land was sold to the farmers at \$50 per acre. Over the years the farmers found they could not make payments on their land and meet operating expenses. In 1935 the railway paid the farmers to take over the project and operate it as a co-operative enterprise. On April 23rd, 1935, The Alberta Legislature passed an act to incorporate the Eastern Irrigation District. From Brooks this project now extends 35 miles west, 30 miles east, 25 miles north and approximately 30 miles south.

The Anglican Church was first in the district with Rev. J. P. Dingle as resident minister.

The first newspaper, The Brooks Banner, was established in 1910 by Calvin Goss. In 1911 the name was changed to The Bulletin.

Brooks School District No. 2092 was established September, 1911. Brooks was incorporated as a town on September 8th, 1911.

An area historic site is Steeveville Dinosaur Park, northeast of Brooks.

PROTECTIVE AND UTILITY SERVICES

Law Enforcement

The town is policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under contract, providing one sergeant, one corporal and nine constables. A district police magistrate also serves the area.

Building Regulations — Buildings must conform to the National Building Regulations and a development control bylaw ensures planned developments.

Electrical installations must comply with the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installations must comply with the Provincial Health Regulations.

Gas installations must comply with the Provincial Gas Protection Act.

Fire Protection

The fire brigade consists of a fire chief and 20 volunteer firemen.

Equipment: Two 500 GPM pumpers with 500 gallon water tank, 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose, roof ladders, extension ladders, coats, axes, boots, crowbars, etc.

Water Supply: Water is obtained from the Bow River and is piped into a 42,000-gallon elevator tower. There are also two reservoirs with a combined capacity of 112,000,000 gallons.

Direct pipeline to Lake Newell, 10", can supply a population of 10,000.

There are 64 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the town.

Water

Water is purchased by the town from the Eastern Irrigation District. The water flows by gravity from the Bassano Dam through canals to Lake Newell.

Domestic Rates:

1st 5,000 gallons or less at \$6.00 Minimum Charge.

5,000 to 15,000 gallons at \$0.75 per 1,000 gallons.

Over 15,000 gallons at \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons.

Domestic Summer Rates:

During the period March 20 to September 20 in each year the amount of water used in excess of the minimum quantity of 5,000 gallons is charged at the rate of \$0.35 per 1,000 gallons.

Commercial Rates:

1st 5,000 gallons or less at \$6.00 minimum charge.

5,000 to 15,000 gallons at \$0.75 per 1,000 gallons.

15,000 to 30,000 gallons at \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons.

Over 30,000 gallons at \$0.35 per 1,000 gallons.

Special Rates

To such municipal and institutional concerns as approved by resolution of the Council —

1st 15,000 gallons at domestic rate.

Over 15,000 gallons at \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons.

Water Analysis of Treated Water

	Parts per Million
Total Solids	-150
Ignition Loss	- 76
Hardness	-125
Sulphates	- 4
Chlorides	- 5
Alkalinity	-105
Nature of Alkalinity — Bicarbonate of lime and magnesium.	
Nitrates	-nil
Nitrates	-nil
Iron	-nil

Remarks — Chemically this water is suitable.

Sewer and Water Main Mileage

Storm sewers	9.78 miles
Sanitary sewers	17.8 miles
Water mains	16.5 miles

A modern lagoon serves the town.

Each dwelling, dwelling with self contained suite or suites, duplex and multiple dwelling connected to the town sewerage system shall be charged a flat rate service charge, calculated at a rate of three dollars (\$3.00) per month per unit.

Commercial units are calculated on the three lowest water billings for the year, divided by three, multiplied by \$1.00 per thousand.

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HEALTH SERVICES

The Brooks Municipal Hospital has accommodation for 80 patients. Facilities include a modern operating room, X-ray equipment, electro-cardiogram and diagnostic laboratory.

Public ward rate per day: Resident — \$2.00; non-resident — \$12.50. The town also has a new 50-bed Nursing Home and a Senior Citizens' Home.

The Medicine Hat Health Unit No. 1 maintains an office in the town with a staff of two nurses. Other health facilities: eight registered doctors, one dentist, one optometrist, three chiropractors, two drug stores, one ambulance service (community enterprise), St. John Ambulance Association.



Large, well staffed hospital anchors Brooks' medical services.

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Electric Power

Three-phase 60-cycle power is supplied under a franchise by Calgary Power Limited, from three separate sources.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is supplied to the town under a franchise by Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Ltd.

Under the general rate, available to all customers, the first 2,000 cubic feet or less used per month costs \$2.50. All additional MCF used per month cost 38 cents per MCF. Minimum monthly charge is \$2.50.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per MCF, other than

the first two MCF, is increased by four cents.

L. P. Gas

Heat value — 2,521 b.t.u. per cubic foot at 60 degrees F. Available in bulk at 18 cents per gallon, or in 100-pound bottles at \$6.50. Storage capacity is 9,500 gallons.

Diesel Fuel

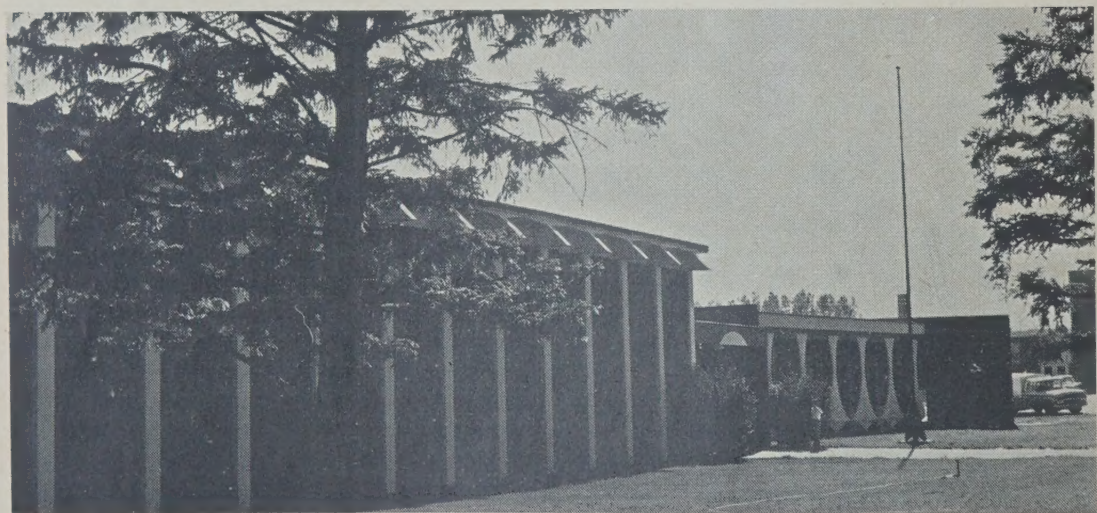
Heat value — 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60 degrees F. Winter rate: 19.5 cents/gallon; summer rate: 18.4 cents/gallon. Storage capacity is 115,500 gallons.

EDUCATION

Brooks School District No. 2092 is a unit of County of Newell No. 4 School Division office. Grades 1 to 12 are taught along with the following optional subjects: art, drama, French.

The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils
Elementary	1 - 6	31	702
Junior High	7 - 9	16	325
Senior High	10 - 12	18	350



This elementary school features modern design.



Recreation facilities include a well maintained golf course.

ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES, RECREATION

Churches

Anglican, United, Evangelical Free Church, Gospel Mission, Roman Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), Lutheran Immanuel Assembly, Christian Reformed, Christian Science, Kingdom Hall.

Organizations, Societies, Clubs

Masonic, B.P.O.E., Eastern Star, Royal Purple, I.O.O.F., Rebekahs, Knights of Columbus, Lions, Kinsmen, Kinettes, Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Legion, Ladies' Auxiliary Canadian Legion. Canadian Red Cross, Ladies Rest Room Society, Fish and Game Association, Alberta Teacher Association, Curling Association, Brooks Athletic Association, Eastern Irrigation District Association, Golf Club, Flying Club, Community Centre Association, Brooks Gun Club, Rodeo Association, Home School Association, Royal Canadian Engineers, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Cultural Activities

The Brooks Municipal Library is supported by the County, Town and Provincial Government grant. The Library is open Tuesday from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. and every day throughout the week. Saturday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Library is closed during the month of July.

There are approximately 13,000 volumes in the Library.

Other Activities — Brooks Film Club, Handicraft Guild, Book Club, Drama at School, Music Teachers.

Youth Activities

Boys: Scouts, Cubs, Air Cadets, 4-H Club. Girls: Guides, Brownies, C.G.I.T., 4-H Club.

Sports

Hockey, baseball, softball, badminton, golf, swimming, tennis, fishing, figure skating, curling, trap shooting, stock car racing, football, basketball, volleyball.

Facilities — Covered curling rink with four sheets artificial ice, covered arena with artificial ice, baseball diamonds, nine-hole golf course, swimming pool, wading pool, playgrounds. Arena seats 1500 persons.

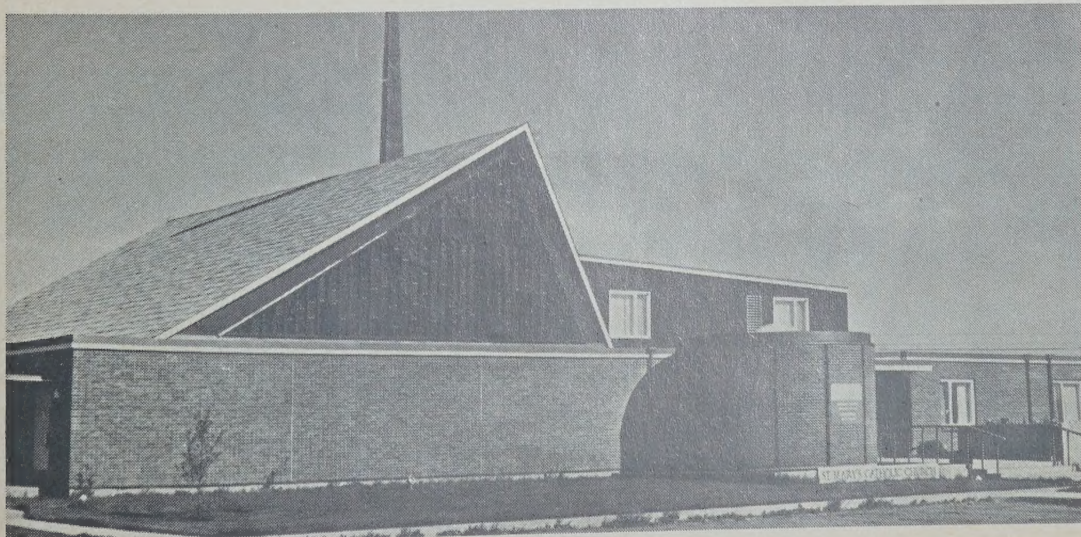
Fairs

Brooks Rodeo, second Friday in June; Annual Horse Show, third Sunday in August.

Theatres and Halls

The town's varied activities are accommodated in the following halls and meeting places:

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Gayety Theatre	350	yes	no
Elks' Hall	800	yes	yes
Masonic Hall	100	yes	yes
St. Alban's	150	yes	yes
United Church	150	no	yes
Town Assembly Room	150	no	no
High School Gym	400	yes	yes
Elementary School	200	yes	yes
Armouries	300	no	no
Drive-In Theatre	250 cars		



Many churches serve the community. This is St. Mary's Catholic.

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

Government Offices

Federal: Post Office, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Veterans Land Act district office, Canada Manpower, Farm Credit Corporation.

Provincial: Sheriff's bailiff, superintendent of schools, district agriculturist, home economist, Treasury Branch, provincial pheasant hatchery, liquor store, Alberta Government Telephones, police magistrate, Provincial Horticultural Research Station, office of Medicine Hat Health Unit No. 1, Department of Highways and Transport, Water Resources Branch, Wildlife Branch, Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, Department of Health and Social Development.

Municipal: County of Newell No. 4, Eastern Irrigation District (head office).

Professional and Skilled Services

Type of Service	No. of Establishments
Chartered Accountant	2
Barristers and Solicitors	3
Barbers	5
Beauty Parlors	4
Jewellers	2

Financial Facilities

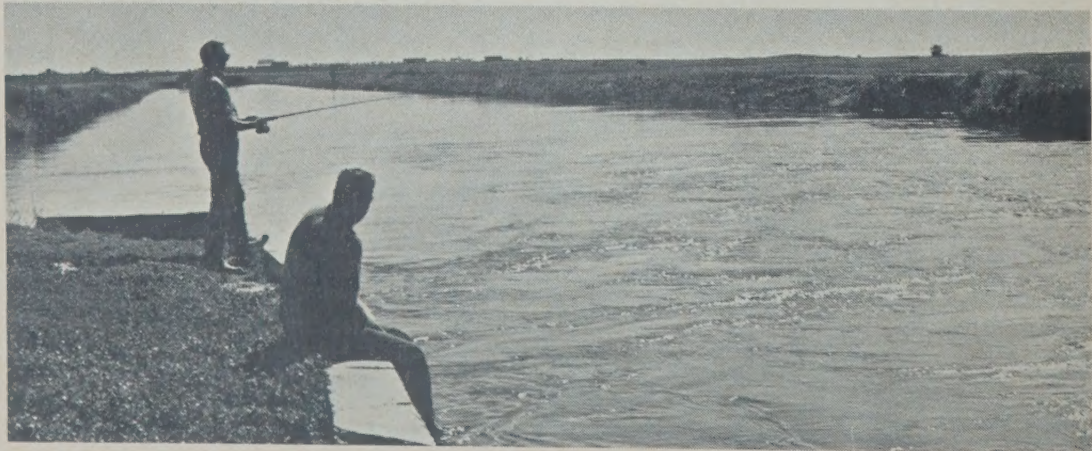
Bank of Nova Scotia, Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal, Provincial Treasury Branch.

Co-operatives

Brooks Savings and Credit Union, Eastern Irrigation District Savings and Credit Union, Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Bow Slope Shipping Association, Bow Valley Feeders Association, Eastern Irrigation District Artificial Breeding Association.

Business Establishments

Industry or Business	No.
Abattoir	1
Accountants	2
Arch Rafter	1
Auctioneers	2
Auction Market	2
Auto Body Works	2
Bakery	1
Banks	4
Barbers	5
Beauty Parlors	4
Blacksmiths	1
Bowling Alley	1
Butchers	3
Cartage	3
Chop Mills	2
Clothing (Men's)	3
Clothing (Women's & Children's)	3
Contractors	5
Creameries	1
Chiropractors	2
Dentist	1
Doctors	9
Drug Stores	2
Dry Cleaners	2
Ducks Unlimited	1
Egg Grading Station	2
Electrical Appliances	5
Electrical Contractors	3
Funeral Parlor	1
Furniture Stores	2
Garages	10
Grain Elevators	3
Groceries	6
Greenhouses	1
Hardware Stores	7

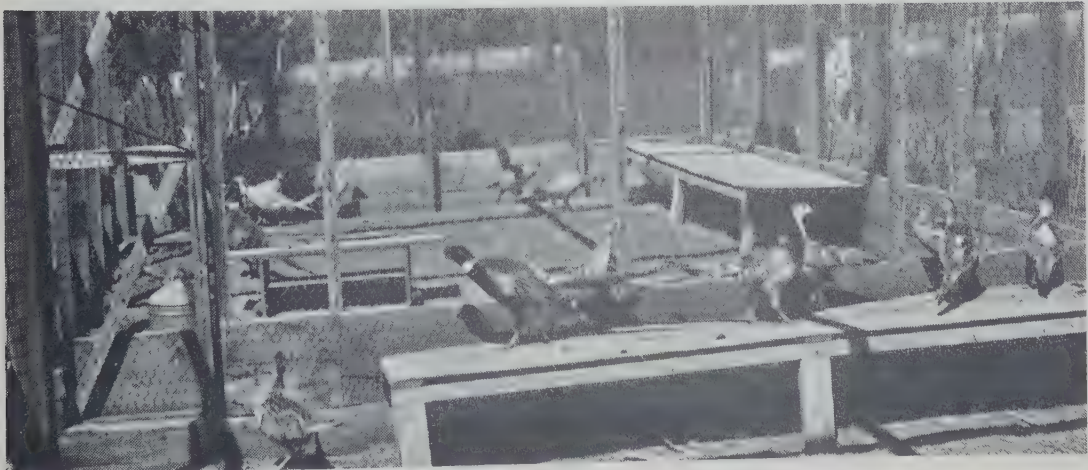


Fishing in the irrigation canal is a popular sport.

Hatchery	1	Pool Room	1
Hotels	3	Potato Chip Plant	1
Implements	5	Printers	2
Insurance and Real Estate	4	Radio and TV Repairs	3
Jewellers	2	Restaurants	6
Law Offices	1	Sash and Door	3
Laundry (coin)	2	Sand and Gravel	3
Liquor Store	1	Shoe Stores	1
Lumber Yards	3	Shoe Repair	1
Milk Distributor	1	Seed Factories	3
Motels	8	Sign Writer	1
Music Teachers	4	Theatre	1
Oil Distributors	4	Theatre (Drive-In)	1
Optometrist	1	Tinsmiths	3
Pea Storage	2	Tire Shops	3
Pheasant Hatchery	1	Variety Stores	3
Photographer	1	Veterinarians	5
Plasterer	1	Welding and Machine Shops	2
Plumbers	3		



Grain growing is important in the area, as trackside elevators indicate.



A pheasant hatchery is located near the town.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sites

In addition to sites located within the Towns of Bassano and Brooks, the EID has reserved 1,600 acres of range land adjacent to the town of Brooks for industrial usage. A half section (320 acres), of this reserve can be supplied by a district-owned domestic system. Water supply is unlimited.

This site is crossed by The Alberta Gas Trunk Line transmission line, is paralleled by a high voltage power line and a main county road, and can be served by a railway spur of the Canadian Pacific mainline. Additional site are available in the East Station area of Brooks.

Irrigation Water

The Eastern Irrigation District obtains its water in abundant supply from the Bow River at Bassano.

Water is paid on the irrigable acre basis and the present rate is \$2.50 per acre per year. The average assessment for municipal taxation is approximately \$2,500 per quarter section.

Irrigation (and domestic) water has a low total solids content. These range from 150 to 200 parts per million.

Utilities

The Eastern Irrigation District is well served by Canadian Western Natural Gas Co., and power facilities by Calgary Power Ltd.

Natural gas can be obtained from producing wells and from two main natural gas transmission lines that cross the district. Industrial costs of natural gas (through Canadian Western Natural Gas Co. Ltd.) are the lowest in Alberta.

High voltage transmission lines of Calgary Power Ltd. serve the area from three directions.

Labor Force

This area has a built-in labour force. Many farm operators and their families are prepared to do shift work to supplement their incomes.

The significant feature of the available rural labor force is that it consists of capable and diversified people who have experience in mechanized farming and are thoroughly versatile in all types of work.

Resources

Agricultural products, oil, natural gas, coal. Two strip mines, Bow City and Rolling Hills, within 25 miles of Brooks, produce sub-bituminous coal, suited for use in power plants.

Crops and Livestock

The main economy of the district at the present is based on grain and livestock production. The district produces an abundance of forage crops to support a livestock population of approximately: 165,000 cattle, 45,000 swine, 16,000 sheep.

Current Industry

There are two feed manufacturing firms, XL Feed and Supply in Bassano and Newell Feed & Supply in Brooks.

Bassano has a unique industry — which makes foil wrapped cakeboards for distribution from Toronto to Vancouver.

Asgrow Seed Company of Canada and B.C. Pea Growers, both in Brooks annually contract a total of some 3,500 acres for the growing of seed peas. This produce is exported.

Tona Golden Top Potato Chips are manufactured by Brooks Food Industries which ships to major city markets in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Brooks Greenhouses with its plant in Brooks and other greenhouses six miles west provide a useful service for the district.

Mortensen's Farms Ltd. in Brooks ship some 400,000 broilers and 300,000 hatching eggs annually to Calgary.

The honey industry in the E.I.D. is represented by beekeepers who set out 7,000 hives in a normal year and expect to produce one million pounds of honey annually. Bassano Honey Packers, with 24,600 square feet of floor and 12 employees, is one of the four largest plants in Canada. One hundred and ten suppliers from Alberta and Saskatchewan market six million pounds of honey throughout the western provinces.

Lakeside Feeders Ltd., near Brooks is Canada's largest commercial feeder with accommodation for 25,000 head. There are other large private feeders in the district.

Two livestock sales yards operated by Bow Slope Shipping Association and Brooks Livestock Auction hold regular sales throughout

the year and handle an estimated \$12 million to \$14 million per year. Livestock is brought from as far away as 200 miles to market here.

There are some 5,000 acres of commercial potatoes grown each year in the E.I.D. with plants at Rainier, Rosemary and Brooks.

Newell Vegetables Ltd. has built a new centralized vegetable packing, storing and marketing project in Brooks. The building has storage for 4,000 tons of potatoes and 10,000 tons of other vegetables. Estimated handling for next season are 16,000 tons of potatoes, 2,000 tons of carrots, 500 tons of turnips, 200 tons of onions and 150 tons of parsnips. This plant is owned by 45 growers and businessmen of Brooks and is the fifth new centralized packing facility to be established in Alberta.

A new mushroom plant has been established with a yearly production of 100,000 pounds of mushrooms. This is adjacent to the town of Brooks and uses gas from one of the many private gas wells in this area. Gas is available almost anywhere in the E.I.D. at a shallow depth.

A new salt brine well has just been completed on the south perimeter of the town and another well is being drilled and could be the start of a large chemical industry, in addition to the large oil industry presently based here.

Agriculture is the major industry of this area.

The Industrial Park south of the CPR mainline is served by a spur track, water and sewer.

A dehydrated alfalfa pellets plant, Alberta Alfalfa Products, went into production during 1972. Another plant, to produce alfalfa cubes, Tyrol Dehydrators, began operating in the Tilley area. These plants will handle production of 3,000 to 4,000 acres of alfalfa each.

Provincial Horticultural Station

The Provincial Horticultural Station at Brooks has been in existence since 1935, formed to succeed the horticultural operations of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The station has been on its present site since 1953.

It comprises 455 acres, nearly all irrigated, with 100 acres in rotation crops. Every year 20 to 25 acres are used for experimental vegetable trials. Orchards and the growing of trees and shrubs for the farm wind-break program occupy about 200 acres. About 70% of the work of the station is devoted to the production of suitable trees for shelter belts and roadside planting. Some 600 varieties of over 40 kinds of vegetables are grown in test plots. Tomato and potato breeding projects, together with cabbage and sweet corn are continual projects. In 1968 the station worked with Imperial Tobacco Co. in test plots of tobacco at Brooks and Purple Springs, with great success. Spice, beans and oil seeds also are receiving attention.

Almost any type of vegetable or fruit can be grown here, privately or commercially. The area is very well suited to row crop growing as the Newell Vegetable Ltd. production proved in 1968. As vegetable production increases other allied type of industry is looking seriously at the Brooks area, the breadbasket of the west.



Provincial Horticultural Station is an important support service to the agricultural community.

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